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Commissioners approve to borrow $7.5 million for DTRF

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

PAW PAW - Van Buren County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, Feb. 25, authorized the county treasurer to borrow up to $7.5 million for the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund to ensure timely reimbursement to taxing authorities.

The county treasurer is responsible for reimbursing all taxing authorities for delinquent re-al property taxes as of March 1, 2025, through the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund (DTRF). The current balance of the DTRF is insufficient to cover anticipated delinquent taxes owed to taxing authorities, requiring additional funding. To ensure adequate cash flow, the county must issue General Obligation Limited Tax Notes, Series 2025, and borrow up to $7.5 million. The total collection of 2024 delinquent real property taxes will be pledged to repay the note, with outstanding Delinquent Tax Anticipation Notes (DTANs) from previous years maturing in 2025 and 2026.

Commissioners approved several county events that will take place this year.

The 2025 Wine & Harvest Festival, an annual event attracting over 60,000 attendees, re-quires the use of county-owned properties for various activities, including the arts and crafts show, Sept. 5-7, the Grape Lake 5K Run/ Walk, Sept. 6, and the Paw Paw Vineyard Classic Bike Tour, Sept. 7. The Lakeshore Harvest Ride, a community fundraising bike event, requests the use of the South Haven Courthouse parking lot for overflow parking on Sept. 13.

All event organizers confirmed they will provide a certificate of insurance if requested.

Commissioners approved the emergency floor replacement at the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Animal Control facility, following a recent state inspection that mandated the replacement of the kennel floors at the animal control facility to ensure compliance and continued operation. The necessary emergency floor replacement is estimated to cost $36,080. Funding for this project will be allocated from the Capital Improvements Fund.

Commissioners approved the purchase of a used 2022 Ford Explorer for $33,995 from Betten Ford, Grand Rapids, for the Office of Domestic Preparedness/Emergency Management, as outlined in the Holtec contract. Funding for this purchase is available through the Holtec contract, ensuring no financial impact on the county's general fund.

The Van Buren County Office of Domestic Preparedness/ Emergency Management re-quires a vehicle to support operations related to the Palisades restart process. The county has an existing contract with Holtec, which includes funding for the purchase of a vehicle and additional temporary staffing to assist with emergency preparedness efforts.

Commissioners approved the purchase of a used 2022 Ford Explorer for $33,995 from Betten Ford, Grand Rapids. Funding for this purchase is available through the Holtec contract, ensur-ing no financial impact on the county's general fund.

Commissioners approved the selection of Combined Public Communications (CPC) as the new Van Buren County Jail inmate phone service provider.

Van Buren County Sheriff's Office currently contracts with Securus for inmate phone services and received proposals from both Securus and Combined Public Communications (CPC) for continued service. Effective Sept. 2025, Securus will eliminate all commissions and charge the county $1,944 annually for phone services, while CPC will maintain commissions. Securus proposed phone rates of 21 to 9 cents per minute with no commissions, video visitation rates of 40 to 14 cents per minute with no commissions, and tablet-related commissions remaining at 20 percent, while also upgrading tablet inventory and charging units at no cost; and.

CPC proposed a prepaid calling rate of 20 cents per minute with an 85 percent commis-sion, remote video visitation at 20 cents per minute with a 20 percent commission, and emails at 50 cents per email with a 20 percent commission.

Commissioners approved the adoption of PTO policy (VBC.05.0002) and the elimination of policy (VBC.05.0003).

The Michigan Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA) went into effect on Feb. 21, requiring policy updates to ensure compliance. Van Buren County's current PTO structure meets ESTA's accrual requirements, but updates are needed for proper tracking and administration. These changes apply only to nonunion employees, as union employees remain subject to collective bargaining agreements.

Commissioners said in adopting the updated PTO policy (VBC.05.0002) and eliminating policy (VBC.05.0003), it ensures compliance with ESTA and maintains clarity in administration.

Commissioners approved an updated Building Closures Policy to ensure consistency, fairness, and transparency in handling closures and delays.

The county's Building Closures Policy provides compensation to employees when county offices close due to severe weather or emergencies. Concerns have arisen regarding employees voluntarily working outside scheduled hours during closures and expecting additional compensation, contrary to the policy's intent. The updated policy clarifies that employees who voluntarily work during closures or delays will not receive additional compensation beyond their scheduled hours while ensuring that 24/7 departments, such as the Sheriff's Office, remain exempt. The policy designates administration, including the county administrator, finance director, and HR director, as responsible for policy interpretation and review.

MAX GILBERT TO SKI IN SPECIAL OLYMPICS

LAWTON - Max Gilbert began volunteering at White Oaks Assisted Living and Memory Care, Lawton, in October 2024. In addition to volunteering at White Oaks, Gilbert finds time to at-tend Van Buren Intermediate School District, (VBSISD) powerlifting and running six days a week, and playing video games. That is a lot to juggle for anyone, but to learn that he does it all while balancing the challenges that come with cerebral palsy (CP), it demands a whole new level of admiration and respect.

To see what Gilbert has been able to accomplish, it is not surprising that he's taken on an-other monumental challenge. During the second week of March, Gilbert, who began skiing at age five, will fulfill a lifelong dream as he will travel to Turin, Italy, to compete as an Alpine skier in the Special Olympics.

To celebrate this accomplishment, residents and staff at White Oaks gave Gilbert a spe-cial sendoff on Monday afternoon, March 3. Lining the halls, staff and residents "clapped out" Gilbert from the main dining room at White Oaks Assisted Living, 300 White Oaks Road.

4-H auction and breakfast nets nearly $4k in donations

The recently held Van Buren County 4-H Leaders' Association Auction and Breakfast was well attended by 90 guests, and 40 4-H youth. The breakfast brought in $680. The in-person auction, by Shane Harris, Harris Auction Services, Cassopolis, brought in $1,302, while the silent auction took in $371, and the Facebook auction tallied $724. There was a total of $835 in donations. The overall total was $3,965. Food supplies were donated by Meijer, Village Market and Walmart, all of South Haven.

Photos courtesy/ Van Buren County 4-H Leaders' Association

Can you identify this Vehicle?

Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott reported that Sheriff's deputies are asking for help from the public to identify the suspect in a hit and run crash that occurred in the 32000 block of County Road 669 in Porter Township. On Feb. 27, at approximately 6:30 p.m., an unknown suspect driving a pickup truck traveled off the road and crashed into a parked vehicle in a driveway. The driver of the parked vehicle sustained injuries and was transported to Bronson Hospital for treatment. The suspect fled the scene traveling west on County Road 669. The suspect vehicle is described as a light-colored pickup truck that will have significant damage to the passenger side front fender area.

"We are asking if anyone recognizes this vehicle to please contact the Sheriff 's Office at (269) 657-3101," said Sheriff Abbott.

Photo courtesy/ Van Buren County Sheriff 's Office *Photo courtesy/ Van Buren County Sheriff's Office*

South Haven Speakers Series announces 2025 Season speakers

Shown from left, Max Vanatta, Greg Dooley, David Thronson, Marcia Rossell McCarthy.

The South Haven Speakers Series will launch its 11th season with a dynamic lineup of speakers covering some of today's most pressing topics: nuclear energy, the evolving landscape of mega money in college sports, immigration, and the economy.

The four-part series, held at the South Haven campus of Lake Michigan College, kicks off on Thursday, April 10 and runs through the fall. Each presentation begins at 7 p.m., with admission set at $10, while students attend free of charge.

Speakers series President Elaine Stephens said the series opens with Max Vanatta, a bright young U of M graduate engineer student who has authored a comprehensive research paper on nuclear power.

"Max will provide a fresh new look at the risks and rewards of recommissioning nuclear power plants including the use of small modular reactors called SMRs" Stephens said. "This is especially timely with the country's focus on plans to reopen the nearby Palisades nuclear power plant," she said.

The financial landscape of college athletics has changed dramatically. "With new name, image, and likeness (NIL) rules and shifting conference alignments, Greg Dooley, University of Michigan Professor, will examine the historical forces shaping today's college sports economy," Stephens said. Dooley is a highly sought after vibrant speaker with insightful thoughts on the big business of college sports. He will speak at the series on Thursday, May 8th.

Immigration is a key national issue. "David Thronson, Michigan State University Law Professor will break down the legal framework of immigration and analyze its economic impact, particularly in Michigan" Stephens said. Thronson will appear Thursday evening September 11th.

What's up with the economy? Stephens said, "If anyone knows the answer it's economist Marci Rossell McCarthy."

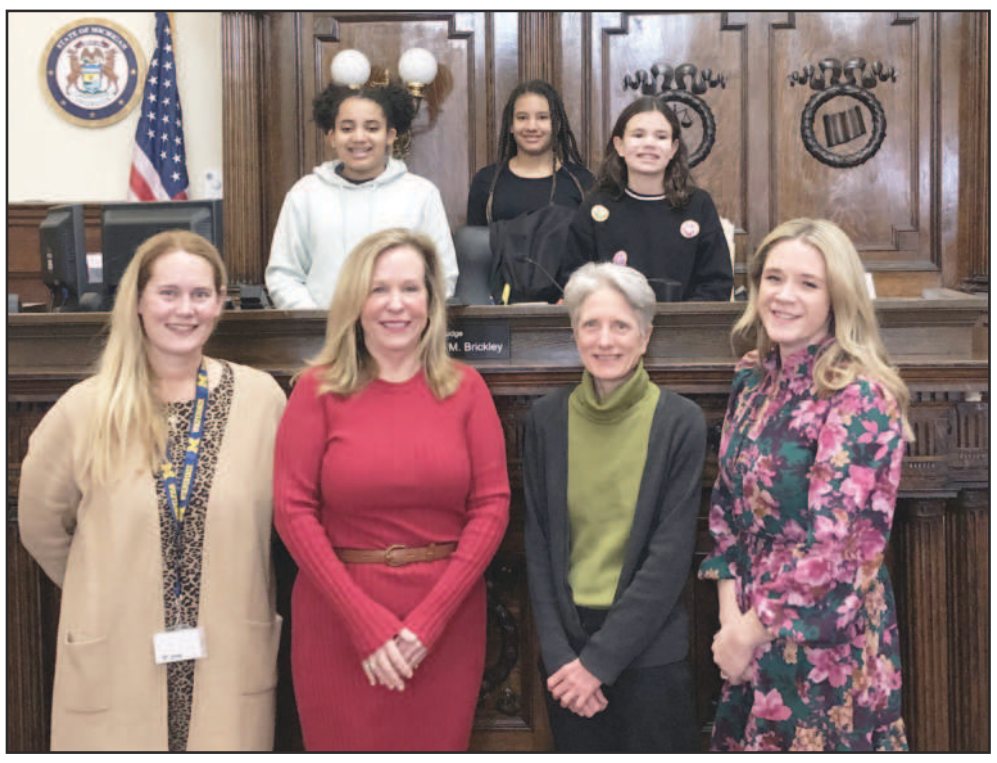
Rossell McCarthy is a world-renowned economist and financial expert who electrifies audiences nationwide, speaking candidly on economics, politics, culture, and the media.

"Marci was a past series speaker, and we are thrilled to have her back to close our 11th year", Stephens continued. She will speak Thursday, October 16th.

There is a 6:30 p.m. wine and cheese reception prior to each presentation.

The South Haven Speakers Series is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Approximately three-quarters of the Series budget comes from generous donors. Further information can be found at the Series website - southhavenspeakersseries.org.

South Haven Middle School students visit Van Buren County Courts



Three South Haven Middle School students, Delanie & Stevie Dyer and Ava Martinez, along with their mothers, Jaimie Dyer and Elizabeth Martinez, visited Hon. Judge Kathleen Brickley's courtroom in Van Buren County.

Delanie and Ava took part in the National History Day Competition whose theme this year was "Rights and Responsibilities in History." The students opted to focus on Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who served as an Associate Justice on the United States Supreme Court from 1993 until her death in 2020.

Judge Susan Metzger and Assistant Van Buren County Prosecutor Rachel Keeley also took part in the visit, assisting the girls with their research into the courts.

This year is National History Day's 50th anniversary. The Michigan History Day competition is a year-long program that encourages students to research and present historical topics. The competition includes districts and then a state-level competition and an opportunity to compete in the National History Day competition. Students in grades 4–12 create projects such as papers, exhibits, documentaries, websites, or performances. Students present their work to volunteer judges, who provide feedback and select projects to advance to the next level. It is very competitive, and only a few advance to the district level and even fewer advance to the national level. Only students in 6th grade or above are eligible to advance to nationals.

Students from South Haven Public Schools have advanced to nationals for the past 15 consecutive years. Their success reflects not only their own dedication and hard work, but that of the teacher leading this club to success: Mrs. Julie Sheppard. Delanie and Ava's visit to the courtroom, and their conversation with the judges and assistant prosecutor, highlighted the role of the judicial branch of government for these students.

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Kokinis named Student of the Month

The Paw Paw Kiwanis recently announced that Landon Kokinis has been named the Paw Paw Kiwanis January Student of the Month. Shown in photo above, are from left, Maria Reo, nomi-nating teacher, Landon Kokinis, student, and Patrick Gorenchan, Paw Paw Kiwanis Club president. Kokinis was nominated by teacher, Maria Reo, who said, "Landon is a kind-hearted and humble person who is always willing to help anyone who needs it. He consistently serves as a positive role model for his peers, treating both teachers and classmates with respect and kindness. His work ethics are exceptional and despite facing personal challenges, Kokinis has never allowed adversity to hinder his performance or positive attitude." He plans to further his education by attending training and apprenticeship toward a license in HVAC. Kokinis enjoys playing soccer and his favorite class is math.

Photo courtesy/Paw Paw Kiwanis Club

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2ND FRONT PAGE

Sheriff says school threat found to be invalid

"Thank you to the Paw Paw-Lawton Mason Lodge No. 25 for the large donation to our Child Safety of America - Safety Pup Program. This is a program that is used in our community to reach the youth through our office," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott. The money received is used 100 percent on materials for the program. "Since getting involved in the program, we've been able to educate and provide materials for thousands of children in Van Buren County. I truly appreciated the invitation to attend your lodge and being able to speak with the members of it. This program has made a difference in our community," said Sheriff Abbott.

Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Uniform Response handled a school threat. Deputies quickly investigated the incident interviewing the two individuals whose names were reported. It was found not to be valid. "Thank you to the individuals who reached out to report this so we could investigate it as it needed to be," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response, detectives from the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office, and Michigan State Police (MSP) were dispatched to a self-inflected gunshot wound in Hartford. Upon investigation, there was no gunshot wound. "It turned out to be a domestic assault in which the son assaulted the mother then fled to where law enforcement could not locate him at the time. Deputies did locate him on another day and lodged him on an outstanding felony warrant. He'll also face charges for the incident of assaulting his mother," said Sheriff Abbott.

The Van Buren County Road Commission has had several street signs stolen in the county at various locations. "Anyone with any information on this is asked to call our office or the road commission. Keep in mind that you can do it anonymously," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response and Dispatch were busy with numerous crashes again this week due to the icy roads and conditions.

"We had our Michigan Department of Corrections Jail Inspection this week. We passed it with zero violations and the inspector was impressed with our staff, jail conditions, etc.," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a domestic violence call in Gobles. The suspect was gone upon arrival. "The victim advised he was assaulted with a spoon," said Sheriff Abbott.

"We had an inmate punch and break a security glass window in a holding cell. This rarely happens due to the construction of it, and how hard it is to do it. The individual is now charged with damaging our property as well as the restitution to replace it," said Sheriff Abbott.

Fire destroys Casco Twp trailer

South Haven Area Emergency Services (SHAES) responded to a trailer fire on a property at 68th Street near 103rd Avenue, Casco Township, on Sunday afternoon. SHAES was dispatched at 1:03 p.m.

The trailer was fully engulfed in flames upon arrival. Firefighters were able to prevent the fire from spreading to a nearby trailer. No injuries were reported. The cause is under investigation. Ganges FD provided mutual aid. Photos courtesy SHAES

Final year of I-196 culvert replacement project in county underway

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and contractor Davis Construction, Inc., were scheduled to begin Monday, March 3, on the final year of the $9.2 million investment to replace the I-196 culvert at Rogers Creek near Covert.

This year, crews will be rebuilding the culver under northbound I-196, replacing three culvert pipes with a single, three-sided concrete culvert. Work to replace the culvert under southbound I-196 was completed in 2024.

The estimated end date is Friday, Oct. 10, 2025. I-196 will be reduced to one lane in each direction between mile markers 8 and 10.

Based on economic modeling, this investment is expected to directly and indirectly support 131 jobs. The new culvert will improve natural creek flow and has an expected lifespan of 50-100 years.

Area Schools receive funding through MEC program

Several West Michigan schools recently learned that they had received funding through Midwest Energy and Communications (MEC) 2024 Strengthening Schools program.

According to MEC, the program, launched in 2013, aims to help teachers, administrators and officials reach students in "new and exciting ways" with grant funding.

Since its launch, the program has awarded more than $300,000.

The following West Michigan districts in The Courier-Leader coverage area received funding for their projects:

•Bloomingdale Middle & High School: Hand-held CNC router

•Gobles High School: New graphing calculators

•Mattawan Early Elementary: Math & Movement mats

•Mattawan Early Elementary: Sensory light table

•Mattawan High School: Creation of an escape room

•Paw Paw High School: Laser engraver and tumbler

•Paw Paw High School: Pay-It-Forward class supplies and expenses

•Paw Paw Later Elementary: Supplies for school therapy dog program

•Paw Paw Middle School: Hardback novels and leveled reading texts for middle schoolers

•Van Buren Intermediate School District: Sensory equipment

•Van Buren Intermediate School District (Early Childhood): Licensing for Tobii Dynavox augmentative and alternative communication equipment

A total request of $208,734, a committee comprised of three co-op electric customers evaluated and scored 110 grant applications, determining the final awards without knowledge of the school, district or community, according to MEC.

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SPORTS

South Haven sophomore at 1,000 points

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — It's not common for a high school basketball player to reach 1,000 points as a senior.

It's very rare for he or she to do it as a junior.

It's incredibly rare for he or she to do it as a sophomore.

But South Haven 10th grader Ly'Nique accomplished that feat as a sophomore when she helped her team defeat Holland on Feb. 27.

Cunningham scored 28 points and had nine rebounds, five steals and two assists. Molly Verseput had 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Cunningham also had a big game when her team beat Berrien Springs 48-46. She had 32 points, six steals, three rebounds, and two assists. Neveah Cooper had five points, and six rebounds, Verseput had five points and five rebounds. Da-Vyne Crowley had four points. Charlotte Grzybowski had two points, three rebounds and three steals.

South Haven ended the regular season at 15-6.

District tournament

South Haven is hosting the district tournament this week. In first-round games on Monday, it was Plainwell 45, Allegan 27 and South Haven 51, Parchment 28.

In games scheduled for Wednesday, it's Plainwell (10-11) vs. Paw Paw (18-4) and South Haven (16-6) vs. Otsego (13-9).

Such Haven used a big second quarter. Outscoring Parchment 22-7 during the period to take a 31-14 halftime lead. Cunningham led South Haven with 20 points including 15 in the first half. Junior DaVyne Crowley and senior Molly Verseput each added nine.

Ly'Nique with banner with banner celebrating her 1,000 career points.

photos by Tom Renner

Molly Verseput battles Parchment players for possession of the ball.

DaVyne Crowley drives to the basket in Monday action

Gobles falls to KC

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — Jayden Otis had 12 points and Aden Newberry had eight for Gobles boy basketball team in district action last week with a 51-38 loss to Kalamazoo Christian.

"We took a solid step, finishing 12-0 on the year and finishing second in the Southwestern Athletic Conference conference at 7-3," Gobles coach John Curtis said. "We bring back our top 7 players in the rotation and hope to take another step forward next year.

"We need to become more consistent on a nightly basis and if we continue to mentally get tougher we will be a good team next year."

Galesburg-August won the conference at 9-1, two games ahead of Gobles.

Paw Paw boys lose in districts

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Paw Paw's boys basketball season came to an end in the district semifinals with a 57-48 loss to Parchment.

Parchment had quarter leads of 14-11 28-25 and 38-35 and had a 19-13 scoring advantage in the final eight minutes.

Truman Brennan had 14 points, three rebounds, two assists and one steal for the Wolves while Kaelin Tate had 10 points, eight rebounds, four assists and one steals.

The Red Wolves entered District play as the 2 seed, so they had a bye until Wednesday Feb. 26.

"Defensively, the Red Wolves came out and played very hard," Paw Paw coach Aaron Beery said. "They held a high scoring offense in check through the first three quarters. As good as the Red Wolves' defense was, their offense struggled to get traction. Maintaining a 3-point deficit for three quarters, the Red Wolves came out in the fourth trying to make something happen.

"Unfortunately, that led to some uncharacteristic mistakes on defense, which in turn created some forced offensive attempts to try to get something going. With three minutes left, the Red Wolves ramped up the pressure to cut into a 13 point deficit, but there was not enough left in the tank to bring the score all the way back."

The Red Wolves fall in district play this year, ending with a 19-4 record.

"It was an excellent overall season that ended prematurely in the postseason," Beery said.

Lawrence picks up wins

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWRENCE — Lawrence's girls basketball team is entering the district week at home with plenty of momentum,

Lawrence had a 52-16 regular season win over Comstock on Feb. 27 at home.

For Lawrence (Junior) Carolina Mancera had 17 points.(Senior) Hailey Camp had 13 points (Senior) Brooklyn Remelts had 8 points.

Lawrence will take a fine 15-7 record into a district semifinal round game on March 5 against Marcellus, which is 10-11.

The district finals are Friday between the two semifinal winners.

Lawrence also had a recent 44-19 win over Bloomingdale and a 55-42 triumph over Marcellus.

In the win over Bloomingdale, Carolina Mancera had16 points, Hailey Camp had 15 points and Brooklyn Remelts 6 points.

South Haven wrestlers have strong season

By John Raffel
Correspondent

Coach Brad Adamson had several talented wrestlers this season as South Haven and provides various comments on each one.

Senior- Jocelyn Saucedo "wrapped up her high school wrestling career this weekend as a three time state qualifier, two time placer, finishing 5th in 2024 and 3rd in 2025 in the 110 pound girls division," Adamson said. "Her third place finish this year puts her as the highest girls state placer South Haven has had, and is the highest overall placer since 2008.

"Jocelyn finished this season with a record of 39-13(28-4 against girls). She amassed an impressive 108-43 overall record through three years as a varsity wrestler, against both boys and girls. 77 of those wins came by way of Fall. She is a two time team captain and two time conference place winner for the Rams, finishing as a conference champion in 2025."

Senior Mikey Yelding "wrapped up his high school career this weekend as a state placer, taking sixth place in Division 3 at 150 pounds," Adamson said. "Mikey finished this season with a 42-12 record. He had an impressive 124-65 overall record with a whopping 290 career takedowns. Mikey was also a team captain, two time district champion and three time conference place winner for the Rams."

Senior Jose Garcia "wrapped up his high school career this weekend as a state placer, finishing eighth place in Division 3 at 126 pounds,"Adamson said. "Jose finished this season with a record of 43-9. His career record was 95-45 after being out most of his sophomore year due to injury. He amassed an impressive 115 takedowns in his senior campaign and had 225 over his career. Jose was also a two time conference place winner for the Rams, finishing as a conference champion in 2025."

Senior Lex Specchio "finished this season with a 28-15 record, and a career record of 80-75. Lex was a one time conference placer, two time regional qualifier and team captain for the Rams," Adamson said.

Junior Zayden Rowland "finished this season with a 33-15 record, and a career record of 95-47. He is a three time conference placer, and two time regional qualifier for the Rams," Adamson said.

Junior Emily Thomas "finished this season with a 20-8 record. She took third place at conference and was a regional qualifier this year for the Rams," Adamson said.

Sophomore Tyler Morehouse "finished this season with a 24-21 record. He finished this season as a conference placer for the Rams."

Freshman Kaelyn Adamson "wrapped up her freshman season this weekend as a state placer, finishing 8th place in the 120 pound girls division," Adamson said. "Her freshman all-state accomplishment puts her as only the second South Haven wrestler to do so. She finished this season with a 34-15 record(32-13 against girls). 30 of those wins came by way of Fall. Kaelyn was a conference champion this year for the Rams."

Freshman Amber Knight "finished this season with a 30-14 record. She was a conference place winner and a regional qualifier this year for the Rams," Adamson said.

Freshman Gabriel Saucedo "finished this season with a 21-18 record," Adamson said. "He was a conference place winner this year for the Rams."

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SPORTS

Gobles wrestlers place four athletes

Gobles wrestlers placed in the state finals at Ford Field last weekend.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — Gobles Tigers wrestlers placed four at the MHSAA State Championships at Ford Field last weekend. Mason Mansfield placed third at 157, Danny Timms placed fourth at 106, Devin Doorlag placed sixth at 126, and Brody Marshall placed sixth at 190.

"Mason Mansfield was the team leader in every sense last weekend. He kept his teammates focused and led by example. He went 4-1 with 16 takedowns, 2 falls, a tech fall and a major decision," coach Erin Carlin said.

"Mason, Danny, and Devin came out strong and set the tone for the Tigers. Each won two straight to reach the semifinals and earn All-State Recognitions. Brody came out strong with a statement win over his opponent, then lost his second match, which forced him into the Blood Rounds.

"There, he battled back into the medal rounds and earned All-State Recognition. Colton Colingsworth lost his first match but came back swinging with a win by decision before being eliminated in his next match."

Mason Mansfield lost in overtime to the eventual State Champ.

"However, Mason did not disappoint," Carlin said. "His pace was superior and he left everything on the mat. He was, as always, electric. His ability to take anyone down and respond to mat side coaching was a special experience. It was a privilege to see him win his last match on the state's biggest stage. He finished his career as a three-time State Placer and the 2025 3rd place was his highest finish.

"The Tigers are grateful for their remarkable 2024-2025 experience. They set a new standard for Tigers wrestling and now have an experienced core to build for the future. As the roster stands, they will enter the 2025-2026 season with five All-State wrestlers, one State Qualifier, and one Regional Qualifier, along with several wrestlers poised to make the jump to the playoff wrestling."

Duncan swims to win at conference championships

South Haven's Zander Duncan performs in a swim meet earlier this season.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven's Zander Duncan was the winner in the 50-yard freestyle at the SCC Conference championships on Saturday.

He also finished second in the 100-yard freestyle. Both performances were qualifying times for the Division 3 state championship meet later this month.

South Haven was fifth overall.

In other results

200 Medley Relay: Dissette, Haqq, Duncan, Filbrandt, 5th place; Novotny, Olney, Prong, Eisenhart, 11th place

200 Freestyle: Sam Rose, 10th place; Jackson Grieves, 11th place

200 IM: Carson Dissette, 4th place; Enzo Haqq, 14th place

50 Free: Zander Duncan, 1st place Conference Champ (State Qualification)

Julius Filbrandt, 10th place

100 Fly: Zander Duncan, 2nd place (State Qualification)

Christian Prong, 15th place

100 Free: Sam Rose, 8th place; Cooper Olney, 16th place

500 Free: Christian Prong, 15th place; Karter Novotny, 13th place

200 Free Relay: Grieves, Rose, Haqq, Filbrandt, 8th place

Eisenhart, Dykstra, Cowles, Wiens, 13th place

100 Back: Carson Dissette,10th place; Jackson Grieves, 14th place

100 Breast: Enzo Haqq, 9th place; Cooper Olney, 13th place

400 Free Relay: Grieves, Rose, Dissette, Duncan, 4th place

Prong, Filbrandt, Novotny, Olney, 12th place.

photo by Tom Renner

Mattawan girls fall in district

By John Raffel
Correspondent

MATTAWAN — Kalamazoo Central faced Mattawan in girls basketball action on Monday and led 22-20 at the half, 35-29 after three quarters and a 47-36 final.

Mattawan was led by Sophomore Caitlin Ryan with 15 points and freshman Charlotte Douglass with 9. K-Central was led by Amiriyae Potts with 11 and Winter Owens had 10.

K-Central moves on to Wednesday vs host Lakeshore.

On Feb. 25, Mattawan lost 62-20 to Edwardsburg.

Maddie Pobuda scored 26 points including eight 3 pointers for Edwardsburg.

Mattawan was led by senior Claire Winans with 11 points.

Seniors Claire Winans, Lauren Fitzgerald, Kearsten Schultz, Emma Glenn, and Molly Grassl all played their final home game.

As a group they were positive, hard working, and disciplined in the face of a season filled with adversity." Mattawan coach Rob Kurtz said.

The Mattawan boys basketball team saw their season come to an end on Feb. 24 with a 51-47 loss to Portage Northern, which also beat the Wildcats 50-30 on Feb 20 to end the regular season. Both games were at Portage.

Mattawan boys had a final record of 5-18.

Lawton wrestler is second at state

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWTON — Austin Garcia took second place for Lawton at 126 pounds in the Division 4 state finals Friday and Saturday at Detroit's Ford Field.

He was pinned in the title match in 1:27 by Nicholas Sorrow of Hudson.

Garcia beat Cooper Raab of Powers North Central 9-4 in the semifinals.

"Going into state, I knew it was going to be a tough bracket," he said. "I knew that some kids were going to be bigger than me because I bumped up from 120 to 126 but I tried not to have than in my head.

My goal was to take one match at a time and focus on scoring points."

He won this first match 12-2 over Mason Langlois of Houghton Lake and then beat Samuel Schneider of Capac 18-3.

Losing his last match "is not what I wanted,"Garcia said. "But to know I will be one of the best wrestlers to come through Lawton really made me happy."

Bangor girls beat Hartford

By John Raffel
Correspondent

BANGOR — It was Bangor 54, Hartford 38 in girls basketball action at Hartford on Feb. 27.

Stat Leaders for Bangor were:

Jaelynn Little 16 points; Madi Lennox 14 points; Lexi Wisniewski 10 points; K'Liyana O'Steen 9 rebounds; Lexi Wisniewski 6 steals, 3 assists.

"TheVikings fell behind 12-6 mid way through the first quarter but went on a 12-1 run to end the quarter. The Vikings led by 10 at half and 16 by end of the third quarter," Bangor coach Bret Witkowski said

Next game is Wednesday district semi finals vs Watervliet at Bangor at 7 p.m.

Bangor continues to have a very fine season with a 9-12 record. Bangor had lost three straight games before its win against Hartford. It will face a Watervliet team which has a 9-13 record. The winner on Wednesday will advance to the district finals on Friday at Bangor High.

It was Marcellus 51, Bangor 36 in another game last week.

Stat Leaders: Scoring

Jaelynn Little 20 points

Lexi Wisniewski 8 points

K'Liyana O'Steen 6 rebounds

Lexi Wisniewski 5 steals

Jaelynn Little 5 steals

"Vikings, played their ninthth game in 3 weeks tonight

And jumped out to a 13-0 but we're not able to hold onto the lead and lost 51-36. The Vikings were only behind 32-29 at the end of 3rd quarter," Witkowski said.

Bloomingdale lost 37-24 to Fennville on Monday in its district opener.

Bangor boys lost on Feb. 26 to Hartford in the districts. The final score was 68-47. Jonah Luter was the leading scorer with 19 points. Jaret McCoy scored 8 points and Carson Pullins scored 7 points.

Gobles wrestlers cap off impressive season

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — Gobles Tigers wrestlers backed up their sensational 2023/2024 season with another record-breaking season in 2024/20255. With head and assistant Coaches of the Year, Erin Carlin and John Weldon, they set a school duels record by going 32-5.

"The Tigers did this by competing against some of the best teams they could schedule in Divisions 1, 2, 3 and 4. In doing so, the Tigers finished the regular season ranked in the Top 10 by Michigan Grappler," Carlin said.

The Tigers also finished the regular season with nine of their wrestlers ranked by Michigan Grappler. Also, two Tiger wrestlers, Mason Mansfield and Devin Doorlag, broke the 100 career wins mark this season. The Tigers had four wrestlers earn all-conference recognitions, seven

Regional Qualifiers, five state qualifiers, and four All-State Wrestlers. In addition, for the second consecutive year, the Tigers earned Academic All State Recognition.

The Tigers will graduate two seniors from their program, Mason Mansfield and Nick Graves.

"Mason is a three-time All-State Wrestler and Team Captain who holds multiple school records. Nick is an original member from when Coach Carlin took over the team and a solid contributor who was on the cusp of having his best year had his season cut short due to injury," Carlin said.

Key contributors and returners:

Danny Timms, Freshman, 106 pounds, 45-11, SAC 2 nd Team, All State (4 th): Great freshman year. Got better as the year progressed. Good wrestling instincts (Ranked)

Jose Boger, Sophomore, 113 pounds, 39-20, SAC HM, Regional Qualifier, (2024) All State (8th): Up

and down sophomore year. Has the talent to return to States. (Ranked)

Devin Doorlag, Junior, 126 pounds, 44-14, (2x) All State (6th): Complete wrestler from top, bottom, and neutral positions. Very coachable. Captain. (Did not compete at SAC due to injury) (Ranked)

Aiden Dukes, Junior, 126 pounds, 39-11: Impressive first year wrestler. Very strong. Breaks opponents with his pace. Will be tough to beat as technique develops. (Ranked)

Hunter Piper, Sophomore, 132 poundsc, 34-23: "First year wrestler. Hard worker and great attitude."

Puts team first and will notch a lot of wins next year.

Finn Carlin, Sophomore, 138 pounds, 28-3 (2024) All-State (3 rd) – "Complete wrestler. Very intelligent. Tough as they come. Limited all season due to significant injuries which eventually prohibited post-season participation. Top work ethic will see him better than ever. Captain. Did not compete at SAC due to injury." (Ranked).

Mason Mansfield, Senior, 157 pounds, 55-4, SAC 2nd Team, (3x) All-State (3 rd) – "Strong, fast, and smart wrestler. Can light up a room with his personality. Captain. Graduating. (Ranked).

Colton Colingsworth, Junior, 165 pounds, 39-17, State Qualifier – "Strong, hardworking kid. Trusts the process. Makes his partners better in the wrestling room. Continued improvement coming. (Ranked)

Brody Marshall, Sophomore, 190 pounds., 56-9, All-State (6 th) – "Tenacious wrestler. Very tough. Capable of beating anyone with further development of strength and trust in the process. Did not compete at SAC due to injury." (Ranked).

Edgar Raseman, Sophomore, 215 pounds, 34-14, SAC 2nd Team, Regional Qualifier – "Impressive first-year wrestler. Very strong. Capable of beating the top wrestlers. More immersion in the process will yield more consistency," Carlin said

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VIEWPOINT

Send us those $5000 checks, DOGE

The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) has received a lot of attention in the news lately. Led by Elon Musk, his minions of young computer nerds have found billions of dollars of waste and fraud taking place in our vast bureaucracy. Musk believes that waste can be cut out of all government departments to the tune of $2 trillion dollars.

On the surface this is a tremendous service to the taxpayer. We, as a nation, are $37 trillion in debt, with that number increasing every second and minute of every day. It wasn't long ago, during the Clinton presidency that we had a balanced budget. How times have changed. We must get a handle on a problem that may bankrupt our nation. Musk, by gutting some federal agencies and NGO's is making waves and a whole slew of enemies but also cutting back on our runaway debt.

Of course, some of the found money will be used to further reduce debt, but both President Trump and Musk have floated an idea that would actually cut checks back to taxpayers. The thought is since it has been our money that has been utilized by legislators and bureaucrats to spend and create their pet projects, that if they are discontinued, some of that money should come back to us.

I wholeheartedly agree. If you can cut hundreds of billions of dollars in frivolous spending, send a portion back to the taxpayers. The number being floated is $5000 per taxpayer. I don't know about you, but that's a substantial amount of change to this taxpayer.

Talk about jump starting the economy. Many of us would turn around and spend that $5000 on goods and services, which in turn would provide a springboard for lower inflation and interest rates. I don't know about you, but I am sick and tired of the sticker shock I experience every time of go to pay for groceries.

For Trump and Musk who have taken a lot of heat in their attempt to reduce government spending, it would take away a portion of the argument that they are killing programs and firing good government workers simply to reduce the deficit.

One can't argue that a few good people have been fired, but as we know the long arm of the bureaucracy reaches across a whole spectrum of big business. Most likely most if not all of these people will land on their feet with better jobs and benefits. Certainly the $5000 and the generous severance packages they are being offered will help them as well.

As far as the programs and NGO's that have sprung up by the hundreds over the past several years, they can find their own funding. As a taxpayer I want my money to pay for essential services like social security, Medicare and our military. If it is important to fund programs in other countries, let the NGO find money in another way, other than from the taxpayer.

Taxpayers deserve to be compensated. We didn't send money to the IRS to be wasted on programs that do not benefit us. Send us $5000. It would be a great gesture from a government that is known for taking but not giving.

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
PUBLISHER

Life as Performance Art

American psychiatrist William Glasser, mid-1960s founder of Reality Therapy and author of "Choice Theoryy," died more than a decade ago. He was never well received by followers of Freud, Jung and others in his field.

According to one story, Glasser had a young patient who was troublesome. His parents had taken him from one psychiatrist to another, and none of it was successful.

Glasser read the case notes and told the youth in so many words, "We both know you're a miserable kid.' Sharing the gist of the notes, Glasser told him he had choices to make and wanted to know he would do about it.

No one had talked to the youth like that before, and it caught his attention. It did not take long for him to start making changes because he was given a choice.

He could either stay the way he was and probably end up in jail or a morgue, or he could change his life. It was a sharp wake-up call, and apparently the young patient took it to heart.

Imagine an adult talking that way to a child today. When Glasser began writing about his theories and practice, only 12 percent of teenagers believed they were truly important and destined for greatness. Today more than 80 percent do.

For many of them, it brings a sense of entitlement that is toxic. With that wild shift in statistics, we have become quicker to blame something or someone else for our problems.

It's "them evil Democrats" or "wicked Republicans" who make my life miserable. It's the Federal Reserve, public policy, the immigrants (legal and illegal) ...

It's the Baby Boomers who won't die quickly enough so the younger generations can get their inheritance. Worse, it's the Baby Boomers who go on cruises, play golf and go out for dinner who are ruining our future by spending "our" inheritance.

Glasser's method was to look at the patient for an uncomfortably long time, then growl, "Oh, grow up and take responsibility for yourself." He would not write prescriptions for medications to numb someone to their pain but tell them to get to work making changes that will improve their life.

Oh, the poor dears might have to engage their brains to make choices, then roll up their sleeves and get to work instead of having everything handed to them.

The harsh reality is that even if we do everything right, there is no guarantee we will be exceptional or successful.

Somerset Maugham's short story "The Verger" told of an older man who had an important but low-paying job at a prestigious church in London. When the new vicar discovered his verger was illiterate, he gave him a month to learn how to read and write.

The date came, the verger had not made sufficient progress and was fired. Lonely, depressed and worried, he walked home and realized that the street did not have a tobacconist. He started a business, and it did so well that he opened a chain of stores.

When his bank manager found out he could not read or write, he exclaimed, "Just imagine where you would be today if you knew how to read!" The now-millionaire said, "Oh, I'd probably be the verger at my old church."

That is more than a fairy tale; it happens in real life too. Early last June an executive with a large advertising agency told of having to lay off half a dozen employees a year ago. One left in tears, worried about her financial future.

A year later, she made an appointment to see him, walked into his office with shoulders back and a smile on her face to thank him for firing her.

She had taken a day or so to pull herself together, send out her résumés and soon found another job where she is far more successful than she could have been just weeks earlier

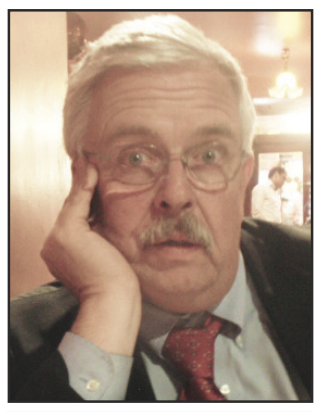
The real secret for success or failure is the bathroom mirror. When you look at it, what do you see and what do you want to see?

Often what we want to see is greatness looking back at us. We want to be a great athlete, businessperson or something else. In fact we want to be a GOAT — Greatest Of All Time.

It strikes me we've got our priorities askew. Our culture doles out accolades to the Greats and GOATS when we would be better off thinking of "good" as the highest achievement we should strive for -— the good man or woman, the good businessperson, the good athletes who works to achieve the best their life's course brings them.

Good people don't cut corners or put themselves first because they have an inner core and the right tincture of humility in their soul.

They want to do the right thing, the good thing. They quietly influence, improve lives and make the world, if just incrementally, a better place.



G CORWIN STOPPEL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Liberals can't handle the truth

To the Editor,

If liberals truly believe in the validity of their ideals, then why do they consistently create a subterfuge when presenting them to the American voter. Progressive leftist and radical activist Sal Alinsky wrote in his book Rules for Radicals, "Accuse your opponent of what you are doing to create confusion and to inculcate voters against evidence of your own guilt".

Every time I hear a liberal mention our constitution or the rule of law it makes my skin crawl. Each action instituted by the Trump administration that the left objects to, they childishly claim to be unconstitutional and illegal. Although the left has little use for such pesky concepts as truth or facts, thus far most of the court challenges by their activist judges have resulted in decisions that substantiate President Trump's actions as unquestionably constitutional and legal. Every day the obstructionist actions of the new democrats through their activist judges reflect that they care nothing for the preservation of our Republic and are obsessed with furthering their destructive anti-American ideology. An ideology that the American voters soundly rejected in our nation's 2024 general elections.

As President Trump eliminates unnecessary federal jobs the left falsely claims this is unconstitutional and illegal. Although when Bill Clinton's Reinventing Government team eliminated between 250,000 and 460,000 federal jobs between 1993 and 2000 the left had no objections. Then on January of 2021 Biden signed Executive Order 13990 just a few hours after his swearing in, and thousands of people on the Keystone XL pipeline were suddenly out of a job. But then these weren't federal employees so the left couldn't have cared less.

The purpose of government is not to be a job creator, that is the function of American business and industry. To claim that DOGE is unconstitutional is reflective of how little the left knows about the law and business. Every day in America businesses hire consultants to evaluate the efficiency of their organizations. Having witnessed and experienced this several times throughout my career, those consultants have the authority to request whatever information is necessary to fulfill the objectives of management. For an employee to refuse to immediately respond to their requests is grounds for immediate dismissal. Elon Musk is functioning in that very capacity. Welcome to the private sector.

The continued pathetic listings of Joe Biden accomplishments are insulting. Such claims as Biden's history of selfless public service, his intellectual prowess or his being a devout Catholic. Biden has always been a small, petty, self-serving opportunist only concerned with the accumulation of wealth and power. True of far too many bureaucrats, Biden has always been completely incapable and unskilled to succeed outside of the tax funded public trough. As far as being a devout Catholic, to my knowledge, other than Nancy Pelosi, Joe Biden is one of very few American politicians to have ever been denied communion.

Federally, statewide and locally liberals still appear clueless as to why they lost the November '24 elections as badly as they did. We hear claims how ignorant everyone is who didn't vote for Harris and the new democrats. Or perhaps they weren't black or Hispanic enough or they were bigots, homophobes, misogynists or simply haters. The left's only explanation to the '24 election results is petulant name calling and sniveling. No matter how the left attempts to rewrite American history they forget that we were all present for the attempted destruction of America under the Obama and Biden regimes and those lies are far too easily remembered and recognized. Their promise of joy didn't appear to work out all that well for them last November. Imposing the likes of Pete Buttigieg on us as Michigan's U.S. State Senator illustrates just how clueless they still are. Pete was a colossal failure as the mayor of South Bend, IN and was even more inept as the U.S. Secretary of Transportation. Liberal's joy will never take the place of honor, character and ability.

As an aside, when my wife and I heard of the liberals foolish February 28th economic blackout we felt compelled to respond in a responsible fashion. We therefore decided to reschedule our bi-monthly shopping trip to Kalamazoo from the 27th to the 28th. Although I can't say we noticed a significant difference in the crowd size, by and large the shoppers were far more courteous and friendly. Thank you for that.

Theodore Roosevelt nailed it when he said" If you want to make a conservative angry, lie to them. If you want to make a liberal angry, tell them the truth."

John R. Young
Hamilton Township

Senior Services to host gala March 15

By James Windell

Celebrating their third anniversary in their South Haven Senior Center, Senior Services of Van Buren County will host a gala on Saturday evening, March 15, 2025.

The Gala will not only celebrate their third year but it will be a major fundraiser for the organization.

"It is a popular event," says Diane Rigozzi, Executive Director of Senior Services of Van Buren County, "but the first year we held it we raised about $30,000. Last year, we brought in over $50,000. All of the funds go toward the building."

The Gala is open to anyone aged 21 and older, and the festivities include dinner and dancing, music from Moondog DJ Rob Byrd, a cash bar, and both a live and silent auction.

"All the items are donated by local individuals or businesses," Rigozzi says. "The live auction features bigger ticket items, such as house rentals. Sometimes people do individual things like baking cookies to deliver every month for a year."

Senior Services of Van Buren County was founded in 1995 and provides services, opportunities, and caring support to seniors to enhance their quality of life. As the only full-service, multi-location senior center in Van Buren County, the organization features a wide range of activities and services for seniors. It's 48,000 square foot Senior Center in South Haven serves over 50,000 meals a year to seniors.

The goal of the Gala this year is to raise $50,000 for the center's Reimagine Capital Campaign.

Sponsorships for the event range from $500 to $3,000 and Senior Services is still accepting donations of items, including gift cards, merchandise, or experiences, for both their live and silent auctions. Those interested in supporting this event as a sponsor or donor should contact Tracie Wheeler, Grants & Fund Development Manager at 269-256-4332 or twheeler@ss-vbc.org.

Tickets for the Gala are $25 each, with one free ticket when you buy a reserved table of 6 or 8. Rigozzi said that the dress is basically semi formal. "Not ball gowns or anything like that," she said, "but dresses and jackets."

Tickets can be purchased at the South Haven Senior Center at 08337 M-140 Highway in South Haven, by calling 269-256-4332 or 269-468-9487 or at or at //bit.ly/3rdannualgalafundraiser.

THE COURIER LEADER
PAW PAW FLASHES
SOUTH HAVEN BEACON

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Almena Township
SYNOPSIS
January 15, 2025

Almena Township Board meeting was held January 15, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. called to order by Supervisor Leduc.
Roll call: Kelly Redmond, Mark Roman, John Wagner, Sandra Rickli, Joe Leduc,
Absent: Tim Kloosterman, Pat Denny-Diget (excused)

a. Amended agenda approved
b. Amended meeting minutes of December 18, 2024 approved
c. Disbursements approved in the amount of $24,189.59 for December 20, 2024 through January 15, 2025
d. Sheriff's Dept. report
e. Paw Paw and Mattawan Fire Dept. reports
f. Public comment offered
g. Reports by officers were presented
h. Motion approved to amend non-sufficient fund check fee to $15
i. Motion approved to table the Vehicle Repair and Storage Ordinance
j. Motion approved to re-appoint Richard Wyrwa to the Board of Review
k. Motion approved to appoint Scott Rueff to the Board of Review
l. Motion approved to reappoint Sandi Curtis to the Board of review
m. Motion approved to appoint Louis Puckett to the Board of Review as an alternate
n. Motion approved to re-appoint Rich Wyrwa to the Construction Board of Appeals.
o. Motion to approve the IT Standard Service Contract with Scott Weber
p. Motion to approve the bond - Dickenson Wright Engagement Contract
q. Public comment offered.
r. Meeting adjourned 8:34pm

Sandra Rickli, Clerk, Almena Township

State of Michigan
Probate Court Van Buren County
NOTICE TO CREDITORS DECEDENT'S ESTATE
Case No. 2025-1025-DE
Judge Hon. Susan Metzger
Estate of **WENDELL O. WARD, DECEASED**
Date of Birth: --

TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, **Wendell O. Ward, died November 4,2024 (11/04/2024)**
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Brooke Ward,** personal representative, or to both the probate court at **212 E. Paw Paw St. #220, Paw Paw, MI 49079** and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
February 28,2025

Attorney:
Schuitmaker Moraitis Law Office, P.C.
Christopher N. Moraitis P87052
181 West Michigan Ave.,
Ste. 1, P.O.Box 520
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-657-3177
Personal Representative
Brooke Ward
2069 Bancroft Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
248-605-1455

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT VAN BUREN COUNTY
Van Buren County Courthouse,
212 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079
(269) 657-8225
NOTICE TO CREDITORS DECEDENT'S ESTATE
FILE NO. _____
ESTATE OF JOHN A. BOLEY, DECEASED
DATE OF BIRTH: JULY 18, 1967

TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, **John A. Boley, who lived in Hartford, Michigan, died December 4, 2024.** Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Thomas L. Boley,** named personal representative, or to both the probate court at Van Buren County Courthouse, 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
Notice is further given that the estate will be thereafter assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.
Date: 3-5-2025

Personal Representative
Thomas L. Boley
25154 52nd Street
Bangor, MI 49013
269-214-7135
Attorney:
JONATHAN B. SAUER, P19907
Sauer & Sauer, PLC
414 Main Street
St. Joseph, MI 49085
(269) 983-0531

State of Michigan
36th Judicial District - 36th Judicial Circuit Van Buren County
SUMMONS
Case No. 2025-074580-DP

Plaintiff(s):
Alicia Santos Gonzalez
172 Corwin Rd, Apt. 1, Lawrence, MI 49064
(813) 764-6376
Plaintiff's Attorney:
Martha Olivia Villegas #P83628
P.O.Box 143, Oshtemo, MI 49077
(269) 888-4703

V

Defendant(s)
Arnulfo Ventura Jose
Unknown Address
Unknown Telephone Number

Domestic Relations Case
There are no pending or resolved cases within the jurisdiction of the family division of the circuit court involving the family or family members of the person(s) who are the subject of the complaint.
Civil Case
There is no other pending or resolved civil action arising out of the same transaction or occurrence as alleged in the complaint
Notice to the defendant: in the name of the people of the State of Michigan you are notified:

1. You are being sued.
2. You Have 21 Days after receiving this summons and a copy of the complaint to **file a written answer with the court** and serve a copy on the other party **or take other lawful action with the court** (28 days if you were served by mail or were served outside of Michigan)
3. If you don not answer or take other action within the time allowed, judgment may be entered against you for the relief demannded in the complaint.
4. If you require accommodations to use the court because of a disability or if you require a foreign language interpter to help you fully participate in court proceeding,s please contact the court immediately to make arragemens

Issue Date: 2/21/2025 Expiration Date: 5/22/2025
COURT CLERK SUZIE ROEHM

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: LESLIE TAPIA; ATTY: ORLANS; 1ST PUB: 2/13/2025; ATTY FILE #: 25-001332; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on APRIL 17, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Leslie Tapia, a single person, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Better Mortgage Corporation, Mortgagee, dated January 16, 2024 and recorded January 23, 2024 in Liber 1761, Page 253 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by JPMMT HELOC Participation Trust, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Seven Thousand Four Hundred Forty-One and 33/100 Dollars ($127,441.33).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on APRIL 17, 2025.
Said premises are located in the City of SOUTH HAVEN, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
UNIT NO. 40, THE PRESERVE AT WOODLAND HARBOR CONDOMINIUM, A CONDOMINIUM ACCORDING TO THE MASTER DEED RECORDED IN LIBER 1487, PAGE 235, INCLUSIVE AND AMENDMENTS THERETO, VAN BUREN COUNTY RECORDS, AND DESIGNATED AS VAN BUREN COUNTY CONDOMINIUM SUBDIVISION PLAN NO. 115, TOGETHER WITH RIGHTS IN GENERAL COMMON ELEMENTS AND LIMITED COMMON ELEMENTS AS SET FORTH IN THE ABOVE MASTER DEED AND AS DESCRIBED IN ACT 59 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF 1978, AS AMENDED.
720 Ravine Ln, South Haven, Michigan 49090
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: February 13, 2025
File No. 25-001332
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(02-13)(03-06)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: MATTHEW A MCKEAN; ATTY: QUINTAIROS PRIETO WOOD & BOYER - QUINTAIROS PRIETO WOOD & BOYER; 1ST PUB: 2/20/2025; ATTY FILE #: MI-003828; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT: Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 P.M., on April 10, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE SALE: Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Matthew A. McKean, the Mortgagor(s), and Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for First Federal Bank, the original Mortgagee, dated November 16, 2021, and recorded on December 2, 2021, in Liber 1729, at Page 902, in Van Buren County Records, Michigan, and last assigned to First Federal Bank, the Foreclosing Assignee, as documented by an Assignment of Mortgage dated October 17, 2023, and recorded on October 17, 2023, in Liber 1758, at Page 321, in Van Buren County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due and owing as of the date of this Notice, the sum of Four Hundred Fifty-Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Six and 06/100 U.S. Dollars ($459,726.06). Said premise is situated at 61881 36th Ave., Bangor, Michigan 49013, in the Bangor Township, Van Buren County, Michigan, and is described as: THE NORTH 660 FEET OF THE WEST 660.66 FEET OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 23, TOWN 2 SOUTH, RANGE 16 WEST, BANGOR TOWNSHIP, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN. The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. Pursuant to Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, if the property is sold at foreclosure sale the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder under MCLA 600.3278 for damaging the property during the redemption period. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Dated: 02/10/2025 For More Information, please call: Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A. Attorneys for Servicer 255 South Orange Avenue, Suite 900 Orlando, Florida 32801 (855) 287-0240 Matter No. MI-003828-23-3
(02-20)(03-13)

VAN BUREN; MTGR: ERIKA HENKE; ATTY: TEAM J; 1ST PUB: 2/27/2025; ATTY FILE #: 508366F02; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on March 27, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Erika Henke,a married woman, and Trent A Hunter, a single man, as joint tenants with rights of survivorship
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Citizens Bank, N.A.
Date of Mortgage: December 19, 2019
Date of Mortgage Recording: January 2, 2020
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $110,272.20
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Gobles, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: COMMENCING AT A POINT 952.875 FEET (57 3/4 RODS) EAST OF THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 30, TOWN 1 SOUTH, RANGE 13 WEST; THENCE SOUTH 214.5 FEET (13 RODS); THENCE EAST 49.50 FEET; THENCE NORTH 214.5 FEET (13 RODS); THENCE WEST 49.50 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. EXCEPT THE WEST 4.36 FEET OF THE NORTH 124 FEET OF THE FOLLOWING: COMMENCING AT A POINT 952.875 (57 3/4 RODS) EAST OF THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 30, TOWN 1 SOUTH, RANGE 13 WEST; THENCE SOUTH 214.5 FEET (13 RODS); THENCE EAST 49.50 FEET; THENCE NORTH 214.5 FEET (13 RODS); THENCE WEST 49.50 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING
Common street address (if any): 310 E Van Buren St, Gobles, MI 49055-9307
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: February 27, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1553698
(02-27)(03-20)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: VINLAND SUSTAINABLE FARM LLC; ATTY: ANDREW BARNES - ANDREW BARNES; 1ST PUB: 2/27/2025; ATTY FILE #: (N/A); INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 p.m., on March 27, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. Default has occurred in the conditions of a Mortgage (the "Mortgage") made by VINLAND SUSTAINABLE FARM, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company, as Mortgagor(s), to Margaret Asrani, as Mortgagee. The Mortgage is dated April 28, 2020 and was recorded April 30, 2020 at Liber 1699 Page 558 of Van Buren County Records. The amount claimed to be due on said Mortgage and unpaid at the date of this Notice is TWO HUNDRED FIFTY-EIGHT THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FORTY AND 58/100 ($258,240.58) DOLLARS, including interest on the applicable indebtedness at a default rate of 6.00% per annum. This sum will increase as additional interest, costs, expenses, and attorney fees accrue under the Mortgage and its related note and which are permitted under Michigan law after the date of this Notice. No legal or equitable proceedings have been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, and the power of sale in the Mortgage has become operative by reason of the default. At the date and time as referenced previously in this Notice, the Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the property herein described, or some part of them, at public auction, to the highest bidder, for the purpose of satisfying the amount due and unpaid on the Mortgage, along with interest due, the legal costs and charges of sale as allowed by statute and/or the Mortgage, and any taxes and insurance that the Mortgagee pays on or prior to the date of said sale. The property mentioned and described in the Mortgage, as located in the Township of Covert, County of Van Buren, and State of Michigan, are more particularly described as follows: The North Half of the South Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 28, Town 2 South, Range 17 West; Address: 41337 78th St., Covert, MI 49043; Tax Parcel No.: 80-07-028-028-00. together with all existing or subsequently erected or affixed buildings, improvements, and fixtures; all easements, rights of way, streets, roads, alleys, and public places, privileges, and appurtenances, public or private, now or later used in connection with the premises; and all rights to make divisions of the land that are exempt from the platting requirements of all applicable land division or platting acts, as amended from time to time. Attention Purchasers: the foreclosing Mortgagee reserves the right to cancel the sale prior to sale or to rescind this sale at any time. In that event, your damages, if any, will be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at the sale, plus interest. If the mortgaged property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention Homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. The length of the redemption period will be six (6) months from date of sale, unless the redemption period is shortened pursuant to MCL 600.3241a or MCL 600.3238, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of sale or as otherwise provided by statute. DATED: February 27, 2025 ANDREW W. BARNES (P70571) BUTZEL LONG P.C. ATTORNEYS FOR MORTGAGEE 317 Center Street South Haven, MI 49090 269-287-2010
(02-27)(03-20)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: MARK A REDFERN; ATTY: SCHNEIDERMAN & SHERMAN, P.C. - SCHNEIDERMAN & SHERMAN, PC; 1ST PUB: 2/27/2025; ATTY FILE #: 25-000322-1; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on March 27, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Mark A. Redfern and Lori Redfern, husband and wife Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: July 6, 2018 Recorded on July 10, 2018, Liber 1670, on Page 995, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Seventy-One Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-Eight and 09/100 Dollars ($171,628.09) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Part of the Northeast fractional quarter of fractional Section 4, Town 3 South, Range 15 West, Lawrence Township, Van Buren County, Michigan, described as commencing at the North quarter post of said Section 4; thence East along the North line of said Section 716.50 feet to the West line of a parcel of land described in a Quit Claim Deed recorded in Liber 1133 on page 991 and the point of beginning of the land herein described; thence continuing East along said North line 15.00 feet; thence South 00° 40` 29" East, parallel with the North and South quarter line of said Section 393.42 feet; thence West parallel with the North line of said Section 25.40 feet; thence South 00° 40` 29" East, parallel with the North and South quarter line of said Section 390.00 feet; thence East parallel with the North line of said Section 458.00 feet to a line which is 1164.10 feet East of and parallel with the North and South quarter line of said Section; thence South 00° 40` 29" East, along the last described line 676.565 feet to the South line of the North fractional half of said Northeast fractional quarter, also being the South line of a parcel of land described in a Memorandum of Land Contract recorded in Liber 1046 on page 21; thence North 89° 26` 32" West, along said South line 488.08 feet to a line which is 676.10 feet East of and parallel with the North and South quarter line of said Section, also being the West line of a parcel of land described in a Warranty Deed recorded in Liber 0878 on page 038 of Van Buren County records; thence North 00° 40` 29" West, along the last described line, 1237.233 feet to a line which Is 218 feet Southerly of and parallel with the North line of said Section; thence East along the last described line 40.40 feet to a line which is 716.50 feet East of and parallel with the North and South quarter line of said Section, also being the West line of a parcel of land described In a Quit Claim Deed recorded In Liber 1133 on page 991 of Van Buren County records; thence North 00° 40` 29" West, along the fast described line 218.00 feet to the place of beginning. Commonly known as 52757 48th Ave, Lawrence, MI 49064 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1554292
(02-27)(03-20)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: CHAD KERR; ATTY: TEAM J; 1ST PUB: 3/6/2025; ATTY FILE #: 515346F02; INSURER: FNMA
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on April 10, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Chad G. Kerr, a married man and Monica Kerr, his wife
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): CITIZENS BANK NA f/k/a RBS CITIZENS NA
Date of Mortgage: March 19, 2020
Date of Mortgage Recording: April 2, 2020
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $333,420.14
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of South Haven, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Unit 7 in the North Shore Estates, according to the Master Deed thereof, as recorded in Liber 859, Page 51, Van Buren County Records, and any amendments thereto and designated as Van Buren County Condominium Subdivision Plan No. 26, together with rights in general common elements and limited common elements as set forth in said Master Deed and as described in Act 59 of the Public Acts of 1978, as amended.
Common street address (if any): 556 N Shore Dr, South Haven, MI 49090-2304
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: March 6, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1554892
(03-06)(03-27)

Continues on page 8

PUBLIC NOTICE

Continues from page 7

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: BARBARA PRUITT; ATTY: TEAM X; 1ST PUB: 3/6/2025; ATTY FILE #: 522413F01; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on April 10, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Barbara Pruitt and Tom L. Pruitt, wife and husband
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing
Date of Mortgage: July 18, 2002
Date of Mortgage Recording: July 25, 2002
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $40,086.24
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Columbia, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: BEGINNING ON THE NORTH LINE OF SECTION 11, TOWN 1 SOUTH, RANGE 15 WEST, AT A POINT 547.63 FEET SOUTH 89 DEGREES 03 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST OF THE NORTH QUARTER POST OF THE SECTION; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 03 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST ON THE SECTION LINE, 110.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 41 MINUTES 40 SECONDS EAST, 1314.83 FEET TO THE EAST AND WEST EIGHT LINE; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 01 MINUTES 33 SECONDS EAST ON SAME, 110.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 41 MINUTES 40 SECONDS WEST, 1314.78 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING.
Common street address (if any): 49290 County Road 388, Grand Junction, MI 49056-9242
The redemption period shall be 1 year from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: March 6, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1554681

(03-06)(03-27)

PUBLIC NOTICE OF HERBICIDE APPLICATION

The Daltons Inc., its main office at 8857 N. Syracuse-Webster Rd., Syracuse, IN 46567, has been contracted by Van Buren County Road Commission to perform custom chemical vegetation control maintenance services at designated roadside guardrail locations throughout the county.

In doing so, they will be broadcast applying the following EPA-registered materials: Bayer/Envu Esplanade 200SC (Indaziflam), Bayer/Envu Method 240SL (Aminocyclopyrachlor), Alligare Imazapyr 4SL(Isopropylamine salt) or BASF Arsenal 4#. Do not enter or allow entry into treated areas until sprays have dried.

This application will be completed by certified applicators employed by The Daltons Inc., during the months of March and/or April.

Additional information may be requested by contacting David Mohler or Brad Bolinger at 574-267-7511

NOTICE OF SHARA PUBLIC HEARING MARCH 18, 2025

Tuesday, March 18, 2025, 8:00 AM at the South Haven Township Hall, 09761 Blue Star Highway in South Haven, MI 49090. The South Haven Area Recreation Authority (SHARA) will hold a public hearing to receive public input regarding the proposed Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Grant Application for boardwalk renovations at the Old Riverwoods site on the Black River. SHARA and the South Haven CVB, along with consultants from Edgewater Resources, are currently working on the grant application and concept design for the boardwalk, which will be available for review at this hearing. Interested citizens can make comments at the public hearing or written comments may be directed to Suzanne Fromson at sfromson@edgewaterresources.com.

United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Services Statement of Nondiscrimination

Southwest Michigan Communications, doing business as Bloomingdale Communications, is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Services, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended, the Age of Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied benefit of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Steve Shults, General Manager. Any individual or specific class of individuals who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the status and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

HL-00414617

United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Services Statement of Nondiscrimination

HL-00414616

Bloomingdale Telephone company is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Services, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provision of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended, the Age of Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied benefit of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Steve Shults, General Manager. Any individual or specific class of individuals who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the status and regulations listed above from and/or file a written compliant with this organization or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

NOTICE OF SHERIDAN ROAD MAINTENANCE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PUBLIC HEARING

Township of Paw Paw, Van Buren County, Michigan

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the township supervisor has prepared and filed in the office of the township clerk for public examination a special assessment roll covering all properties within the Sheridan Road Special Assessment District No. 857 benefited by the proposed maintenance project to include resurfacing of the road. The roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing the costs as shown on the estimate of costs on file with the township clerk. The roll is in the amount of $70,000. with a proposed special assessment of $278.47 per parcel per year for seven years. For further information you are invited to examine the roll.

The township board will meet at the Paw Paw Township Hall at 114 North Gremps Street Paw Paw, Michigan on March 10th , 2025, at 6 o'clock p.m. to review the special assessment roll, to consider objections thereto, and to confirm the roll as submitted or revised or amended. The roll may be examined at the office of the township clerk at the township hall during regular business hours of regular business days until the time of the hearing and may be examined at the hearing.

An owner or party of interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment in writing, or may file his or her appearance and protest by letter before the hearing, and in the event, personal appearance shall not be required. The owner or any person having an interest in the real property who protests in writing at or before the hearing may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the State Tax Tribunal within 30 days after the special assessment roll is confirmed.

After the public hearing, the township board may confirm the roll as submitted or as revised or amended; may provide for payment of special assessment with interest; and may provide by resolution for such other matters as are permitted by law with regard to special assessments for Sheridan Road Special Assessment District No. 857.

All interested persons are invited to be present at the hearing to submit comments. American With Disabilities (ADA) Notice THE PAW PAW TOWNSHIP HALL IS BARRIER FREE. The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Public Hearing upon 2 business days' notice. Contact: Rebecca Payne, PAW PAW TOWNSHIP CLERK, 269-657- 4340 ext. 125.

Rebecca F. Payne, Paw Paw Township Clerk
114 North Gremps Street, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079 • (269)657-4340 ext. 125

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING VILLAGE OF PAW PAW VILLAGE COUNCIL

Paw Paw Village Council will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, March 10, 2025 at 7:00 pm**, at the Paw Paw District Library, located at 609 W Michigan Ave, Paw Paw, Michigan to consider the following application:

APPLICANT	Greg Watts, Prime Homes
APPLICATION TYPE	Special Land Use Permit Request for a Planned Unit Development
PROJECT ADDRESSES	UNASSIGNED/VACANT – DAVIS STREET / OLD LANE ROAD
PROJECT PARCEL NUMBER(S)	80-47-582-057-30, 80-47-582-062-30, 80-47-582-062-20, 80-47-582-062-11
ZONING DISTRICT	R-2, SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT
DESCRIPTION OF REQUEST	The applicant requests a special land use permit to develop a residential Planned Unit Development (PUD). The PUD is proposed to consist of 19 duplex condominium buildings and a total of 38 dwelling units, with a net density of 3.38 dwelling units per acre.

This application is available at the Village of Paw Paw offices for public examination and review during normal business hours. Interested persons may submit comments in writing before the public hearing, or appear in person at the public hearing to become part of the hearing record. The Village of Paw Paw will provide necessary and reasonable aids and services for disabled persons upon 5 days prior notice to the Village Offices at (269) 657-3148.

Karla Tacy
Village Clerk

VILLAGE OF DECATUR
COUNTY OF VAN BUREN
STATE OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION 2025-005: A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET FOR THE VILLAGE OF DECATUR; APPROPRIATING THE NECESSARY AMOUNTS FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES.

At the Special Meeting of the Village Council of the Village of Decatur, Michigan, held at Village Hall on February 24, 2025, the following Resolution was offered.

WHEREAS, The Chief Administrative Officer of the Village of Decatur has prepared and presented the Annual Appropriation Bill to commence March 1, 2025, to expire February 28, 2026, for Fiscal Year 2026, and;

WHEREAS, The Village will operate with a millage rate of 11.41660 for general operations, a 4.9566 millage rate for general street operations, and a 1.82620 millage rate for the Downtown Development Authority, and;

WHEREAS, It is necessary to provide for the implementation, operation and periodic adjustment of this act;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed Annual Appropriation Bill as presented by the Village Manager, titled Village of Decatur Fiscal Year 2026 Budget, covering March 1, 2025, through February 28, 2026, be adopted by fund, and the Village Manager is hereby authorized to make expenditures and amendments provided for in said budget, provided such expenditures are made in accordance with General Village Charter and Policies, and:

GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	REVENUE FY 2026	EXPENSE FY 2026
101	GENERAL FUND	$2,012,965.00	$1,671,127.00
202	MAJOR ROAD FUND	$204,010.00	$70,000.00
203	LOCAL ROAD FUND	$214,030.00	$247,150.00
213	SALVAGE VIN FUND	$15,610.00	$13,200.00
204	STREETS FUND	$180,300.00	$125,000.00
244	BUSINESS LOANS FUND	$0.00	$0.00
245	HOME REHAB FUND	$0.00	$0.00
248	DDA FUND	$47,460.00	$45,450.00
590	SEWER FUND	$1,835,850.00	$1,848,391.88
591	WATER FUND	$1,367,400.00	$1,294,244.88
661	MOTOR POOL FUND	$159,500.00	$159,500.00
	OTHER	$138,640.00	$135,000.00
	GRAND TOTAL	**$6,175,765.00**	**$5,609,063.76**

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED, this 24th day of February 2025.

Ali Elwaer, Village President

Megan Duncan, Village Clerk & Treasurer

CERTIFICATION OF RESOLUTION

I, Megan Duncan, Clerk &Treasurer of the Village of Decatur, Van Buren County, Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution is a true and complete copy of the resolution duly adopted by the Village Council of the Village of Decatur, Michigan, at a Special Council Meeting held February 24, 2025.

Megan Duncan, Village Clerk & Treasurer

VILLAGE OF DECATUR
COUNTY OF VAN BUREN
STATE OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION 2025-004: A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET FOR THE VILLAGE OF DECATUR; APPROPRIATING THE AMOUNTS NECESSARY FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES.

At the Special Meeting of the Village Council of the Village of Decatur, Michigan, held at Village Hall on February 24, 2025, the following Resolution was offered.

WHEREAS, The Chief Administrative Officer of the Village of Decatur has prepared and presented amendments to the budget to commence March 1, 2024, to expire February 28, 2025, for Fiscal Year 2025, and;

WHEREAS, It is necessary to provide for the implementation, operation and periodic adjustment of this act;

GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	REVENUE FY 2024	EXPENSE FY 2024
101	GENERAL FUND	$1,286,109.00	$1,224,894.00
202	MAJOR ROAD FUND	$202,400.00	$78,070.00
203	LOCAL ROAD FUND	$213,200.00	$277,995.00
213	SALVAGE VIN FUND	$15,705.00	$28,350.00
204	STREETS FUND	$169,200.00	$125,000.00
244	BUSINESS LOANS FUND	$0.00	$0.00
245	HOME REHAB FUND	$0.00	$0.00
248	DDA FUND	$39,924.00	$39,259.00
590	SEWER FUND	$597,838.72	$574,926.18
591	WATER FUND	$2,266,973.72	$2,146,503.00
596	GARBAGE FUND	$195,660.00	$145,617.00
661	MOTOR POOL FUND	$125,310.00	$88,679.00
	OTHER	$417.85	$182,800.00
	GRAND TOTAL	**$5,112,738.29**	**$4,912,093.18**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed budget amendment document as presented by the Village Manager, titled Village of Decatur Fiscal Year 2025 Budget, covering March 1, 2024, through February 28, 2025, be adopted by fund, and the Village Manager is hereby authorized to make expenditures and amendments provided for in said budget, provided such expenditures are made in accordance with General Village Charter and Policies, and:

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED, this 24th day of February 2025.

Ali Elwaer, Village President

Megan Duncan, Village Clerk & Treasurer

CERTIFICATION OF RESOLUTION

I, Megan Duncan, Clerk &Treasurer of the Village of Decatur, Van Buren County, Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution is a true and complete copy of the resolution duly adopted by the Village Council of the Village of Decatur, Michigan, at a Special Council Meeting held February 24, 2025.

Megan Duncan, Village Clerk & Treasurer

CLASSIFIEDS

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
ALMENA TOWNSHIP
FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026
PROPOSED BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Almena Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year at the Almena Township Hall, located at 27625 CR 375, Paw Paw MI 49079 on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection at the Almena Township Hall.

The Almena Township Board will provide the necessary and reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon request to the Almena Township Board by writing or calling the Almena Township Hall located at 27625 CR 375, Paw Paw MI 49079 or (269) 668-6910 M-W-Th 9am to 4pm.

Sandra Rickli
Clerk, Almena Township

TOWNSHIP OF PAW PAW
2025 NOTICE OF BOARD OF REVIEW

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Review will meet at the Township Hall, 114 N. Gremps St. Paw Paw, MI 49079, to examine and review the 2025 Assessment Roll. The board will convene on the following dates for the hearing of appeals of assessments or taxable values, poverty exemptions, parcel classification appeals and/or current year qualified agricultural denials:

Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 10:00 am Organizational Meeting
Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 9:00 am to Noon and 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm Monday, March 17, 2025, Noon to 3:00 pm and 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm

and on such additional days as required to hear all persons who have given notice of the desire to be heard until assessment rolls have been revised, corrected, and approved. **APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED.** Contact the Assessor at 269-655-1144 or by email at BEN.APGLLC@GMAIL.COM for further information. Letter appeals will be accepted and must be received no later than 5:00 pm March 14, 2025. Address listed below.

Tentative ratios and estimated multipliers for 2025 are as follows:

Agricultural	46.51%	1.0750
Commercial	45.38%	1.1018
Industrial	43.60%	1.1468
Residential	45.43%	1.1006
Personal Property	50.00%	1.0000

Tentative equalization factor of 1.0000 for all classes is expected after completion of Board of Review.
Tom Palenick, Supervisor Paw Paw Township
Ben Brousseau, Assessor Paw Paw Township

Paw Paw Township Board Meetings are open to all without regard to race, national origin, sex, or disability.

American with Disabilities (ADA) Notice

The township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon seven (7) days' notice to Paw Paw Township. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Paw Paw Township by writing or calling.

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Ladies of the Lights featured at Michigan Maritime Museum

Dianna Stampfler

By James Windell

Michigan has more lighthouse than any state in the U.S., but how many female lighthouse keepers has there been?

Dianna Stampfler will address that very question at the next Michigan Maritime Museum lecture on March 12, 2025.

The next presentation in the Museum's Whispers Across the Water Lecture Series, Ladies of the Lights will explore the contributions of women to Great Lakes maritime history through the perspective of women lighthouse keepers.

"With Michigan having so many lighthouses," says Ashley Deming, Director of Education & Programs for the Michigan Maritime Museum, "there is a lot of mystery and romanticism around them. Predominantly, Michigan lighthouses were manned by men."

However, Demming emphasizes that Stampfler has found about 40 women who have been identified in the profession going as far back as 1840. With 129 active lighthouses now and about 140 lighthouses altogether, very few had female lighthouse keepers. "Although some females were hired to do the job of lighthouse keeper, often men who were lighthouse keepers were married and their wives would take over when their husbands got sick or passed away," says Demming.

Dianna Stampfler has been presenting lively and upbeat programs about the area's historic lighthouses, historic sites, and other unique destinations in her home state of Michigan for more than 25 years. She is a passionate professional speaker, with a degree in communications from Western Michigan University and nearly 40 years' experience in radio broadcasting and public speaking. Stampfler is the author of Michigan's Haunted Lighthouses (2019), Death & Lighthouses on the Great Lakes (2022), and Kalamazoo County Characters (2025).

"Dianna is a really wonderful presenter," says Demming, "and she's very ingrained in Michigan history and the topic of female lighthouse keepers is one of favorite programs."

"Ladies of the Lights is my favorite program to share with people," says Stampfler. "These inspiring women were so dedicated to their career – and it was a physically and mentally demanding job, dominated by men. These female keepers were well respected by their male counterparts, the local community and the ship's captains who relied upon them to guide them to safety."

Ladies of the Lights is part of the Museum's 2025 theme Whispers Across the Water in which the Museum is showcasing minority contributions to Great Lakes maritime history and heritage. This program as well as others in this series are made possible thanks to the Nielsen-Wells Grant Fund and Mike & Susan Smith. The program starts at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at the Michigan Maritime Museum, 260 Dyckman Avenue, South Haven.

Tickets are free for Museum members and $10 for non-members. For more information about the Museum's events, visit: https://www.michiganmaritimemuseum.org/events/.

Robotics team to reveal Ramageddon

South Haven High School's robotics team, 4855 Ramageddon, invites the public to the exciting reveal of the team's 2025 robot on Wednesday, March 5 th , 6:00pm. The Annual Ramageddon Robot Reveal will take place in the high school's Integrated Learning Center (ILC), and it is the culmination of two months' worth of hard work.

Ramageddon competes in the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC), which is considered the ultimate sport for the mind and the only sport where every single participant can go pro. FIRST stands for "For the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology." 3,468 teams, including more than 80,000 students and 25,000 mentors from 26 countries participate in FRC. Most teams reside in the United States, with Michigan having 514 teams, the most in the country.

The team's "build season" began on Saturday, January 4 th when they joined FRC teams throughout the world in watching a livestream event which introduced teams to the 2025 FRC game titled "Reefscape". From there, the team had two months to prototype, build, and program a competitive robot to complete the game's tasks.

Kim Wise, the Business Team Coach for Ramageddon stated, "During build season, the team meets 16 hours per week or more. It's a lot of work, but for these students, it is the hardest fun they will ever have." Wise continued, "Even though our 'official' season runs from January through early April, we are actually a year-round team. In the 'off' season, the students volunteer for various outreach activities such as hosting our inaugural STEM-a-Thon and co-hosting a middle school robotics competition. So far this season, the team has close to 680 volunteer hours."

Doors open for the Annual Ramageddon Robot Reveal at 5:45pm and at that time, attendees can purchase yard signs and t-shirts to support the team. At 6pm, the team, along with members of GOATageddon from Baseline Middle School and Lambageddon from North Shore Elementary School, will give a short presentation. Following the presentation, Ramageddon will reveal the 2025 robot and give a demonstration of the robot's capabilities. The public will then be invited to participate in a question-and-answer session with the team.

For more information, please contact Kim Wise at kwise@shps.org.

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UCS to host "Plates of Plenty" fundraiser

PAW PAW – The fourth annual fundraiser, "Plates of Plenty," sponsored by United Christian Services, Paw Paw, will be held Thursday, March 13, from 6 to 8 p.m.at Freshwater Community Church,600 E. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw.

The event will feature a banquet and silent auction. Those attending will have the opportunity to support UCS and hear how financial donations are impacting the local community

Tickets are $25 each or full table may be reserved.

Attendees will have the opportunity to select from over 180 hand painted plates by local residents . A limited number of early bird tickets is available for those wanting first pick of a plate.

For more information and tickets, visit:united-christianservices-evbc.com/fundraiser

Coalition to host power hour

The Michigan Land & Liberty Coalition invites you to a Power Hour event to discuss renewable energy. March 13, 2025, 6 to 8 PM Van Buren Conference Center 490 S Paw Paw St Lawernce MI. Property rights protection for landowners, economic opportunities for local communities, Sustainable land stewardship practices, open dialogue and Q & A session.

"LEST WE FORGET" ON MARCH 15TH AT HPL

The Van Buren Regional Genealogical Society invites the community to the Hartford Public Library on Saturday, March 15th, beginning at 11am, as they welcome Lee Scherwitz of Lest We Forget of St. Joseph and Benton Harbor. The mission of this fine organization is to preserve, promote, and disseminate the memories of the men and women who fought for our freedom, so gather with friends and neighbors as we join together to honor our veterans at this free event.
Mr. Scherwitz will be highlighting the dedication of the Lest We Forget members and the many local events and programs his organization sponsors throughout the year that promote patriotism.
This is a free event open to the public. No reservation is needed.

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